METHOD FOR USING ARCUATE DYNAMIC LORDOTIC GUARD WITH MOVABLE EXTENSIONS FOR CREATING AN IMPLANTATION SPACE POSTERIORLY IN THE LUMBAR SPINE

This application is a divisional of Application Serial No. 10/085,406, filed March 1, 2002, now U.S. Patent 6,896,680 which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional Application No. 60/272,382, filed March 1, 2001; all of which is incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a device for implantation into a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies in the human spine, and a device and method for working on those portions of the vertebral bodies adjacent that disc space to remove bone material and thereby access vascular bone, and preferably a device and method for protecting the neurological structures such as nerve roots and dural sac proximate the implantation site while providing protected access to form an implantation space and then access the implantation space formed between the adjacent vertebral bodies for insertion therein of an implant having upper and lower surfaces being at least in part arcuate. The device and associated method are used to position (space apart and align) the vertebral bodies, guide the formation of a surface into or through each of the vertebral body surfaces that are adjacent the intervertebral disc space, and may further be utilized to guide an interbody spinal implant having upper and lower surfaces being at least in part arcuate into the implantation space.

In one embodiment, the device and associated method are used to make an implantation space to insert an implant of a height having a known correspondence to the height of the space created. In another embodiment, the device and associated method are used to make an implantation space of known and specific dimensions (e.g., width; depth; and height) and with certain preferred embodiments, permit passage through the device of an implant having a height greater than the height of the implantation space formed through the device.